United Nations

Report of the Conference on Disarmament

23 January-31 March, 15 May-30 June and 31 July-15 September 2006

General Assembly
Official Records
Sixty-first Session
Supplement No. 27 (A/61/27)

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Note

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Conference on Disarmament submits to the sixty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly its annual report on its 2006 session, together with the pertinent documents and records.

II. ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

A. 2006 Session of the Conference

2. The Conference was in session from 23 January to 31 March, 15 May to 30 June and 31 July to 15 September 2006. During this period, the Conference held 49 formal plenary meetings, at which Member States as well as non-Member States invited to participate in the discussions outlined their views and recommendations on the various questions before the Conference.

3. The Conference also held 22 informal plenary meetings on its agenda, programme of work, organization and procedures, as well as on other matters.

4. Upon the joint invitation of the President of the Conference, Ambassador Zdzisław Rapacki (Poland), and the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Sergei Ordzhonikidze, the following dignitaries addressed the Conference on Disarmament during its 2006 session: Dr. Kim Howells, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom (23 March 2006, CD/PV.1014), Dr. Manouchehr Mottaki, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran (30 March 2006, CD/PV.1015), Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea (20 June 2006, CD/PV.1027), Ms. Akiko Yamanaka, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan (20 June 2006, CD/PV.1027), Mr. U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar (22 June 2006, CD/PV.1029), Mr. Roberto García Moritán, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Argentina (23 August 2006, CD/PV.1036) and Mr. Yohei Kono, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Japan (14 September 2006, CD/PV.1043). At the 1023rd plenary meeting on 1 June 2006, the President of the Conference read out the address of Mr. Sergei Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, to the Conference on Disarmament (CD/1783).

5. In accordance with Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure, the following Member States assumed successively the Presidency of the Conference: Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal and Slovakia.

6. The substantive Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament was composed as follows: Mr. Sergei Ordzhonikidze, Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations; Mr. Tim Caughley, Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Director, Department for Disarmament Affairs (Geneva Branch) and Mr. Jerzy Zaleski, Senior Political Affairs Officer, Secretary of the Conference on Disarmament.

B. Participants in the Work of the Conference

7. The representatives of the following 65 Member States participated in the work of the Conference: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

C. Attendance and Participation of States not Members of the Conference

8. In conformity with Rule 32 of the Rules of Procedure, the States not Members of the Conference listed in the following paragraph attended its plenary meetings.

9. The Conference received and considered requests for participation in its work from the 35 States not Members of the Conference. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure and decision taken at its 1990 session on its improved and effective functioning (CD/1036), the Conference invited the following non-Member States to participate in its work: Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, the Holy See, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Mauritius, Oman, the Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Montenegro[1], Slovenia, Sudan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Zambia.

D. Agenda and Programme of Work for the 2006 Session

10. Following a debate at which the content of the annual agenda was reviewed, at its 998th plenary meeting on 24 January 2006, the Conference on Disarmament adopted its agenda for the 2006 session in conformity with the Rules of Procedure (CD/PV.998). The agenda reads as follows:

"Taking into account, inter alia, the relevant provisions of the Final Document of the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, and deciding to resume its consultations on the review of its agenda, and without prejudice to their outcome, the Conference adopts the following agenda for its 2006 session:

[1] Since 3 June 2006 — Serbia.

1. Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament.

2. Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters.

3. Prevention of an arms race in outer space.

4. Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

5. New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons.

6. Comprehensive programme of disarmament.

7. Transparency in armaments.

8. Consideration and adoption of the annual report and any other report, as appropriate, to the General Assembly of the United Nations."

11. Subsequently, the President made the following statement: "In connection with the adoption of the agenda, I, as the President of the Conference, should like to state that it is my understanding that if there is a consensus in the Conference to deal with any issues, they could be dealt with within this agenda. The Conference will also take into consideration rules 27 and 30 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, as well as paragraph 20 and other relevant paragraphs of the 2005 report of the Conference on Disarmament to the General Assembly, contained in document CD/1761."

12. Pursuant to paragraph 38 of the 2005 report of the Conference (CD/1761), the last President of the 2005 session (Peru) and the first President of the 2006 session (Poland), in cooperation with the five incoming Presidents of the 2006 session (the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Senegal and Slovakia), conducted informal consultations on the possibilities of reaching consensus on a programme of work with a view to commencing early substantive work during the 2006 session of the Conference.

13. During the annual session, successive Presidents of the Conference conducted intensive consultations and made significant efforts with a view to reaching consensus on a programme of work. In spite of the efforts of the Presidents, the Conference was not able to agree on a programme of work and did not re-establish or establish any mechanism on any of its specific agenda items during the 2006 session.

14. At the 1003rd plenary meeting on 9 February 2006, the President submitted to the Conference a joint proposal of the CD Presidents on the Conference's activities for the 2006 session, which included general debates at the plenary meetings allowing for a rolling discussion on all agenda items, and focused structured debates, with the participation of experts, as follows:

(a) during the Presidency of the Republic of Korea: from 27 February to 3 March – agenda items 1 (Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament) and 2 (Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters), with the general focus on nuclear disarmament;

(b) during the Presidency of Romania: from 15 to 19 May – agenda items 1 (Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament) and 2 (Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters) , with general focus on the prohibition of production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices;

(c) during the Presidency of the Russian Federation: from 8 to 15 June – agenda item 3 (Prevention of an arms race in outer space), and from 19 to 23 June – agenda item 5 (New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons);

(d) during the Presidency of Senegal: from 31 July to 4 August – agenda item 4 (Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons), and from 7 to 11 August – agenda item 6 (Comprehensive programme of disarmament);

(e) during the Presidency of Slovakia: from 21 to 25 August – agenda item 7 (Transparency in armaments), and from 4 to 15 September – agenda item 8 (Consideration and adoption of the annual report and any other report, as appropriate, to the General Assembly of the United Nations).

The substance of the debates was to be based on proposals made by Member States, including those contained in official documents of the Conference, working papers and other recommendations and proposals by States. It was emphasized that Rule 30 of the Rules of Procedure would apply to these debates. The joint proposal was without prejudice to any future decisions of the Conference on its programme of work or on the establishment of any subsidiary body. The Conference on Disarmament took note of the proposal.

15. A representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) made a statement to the Conference at the 1037th plenary meeting on 24 August 2006 (CD/PV.1037).

16. During plenary meetings of the Conference, successive Presidents, delegations and groups of delegations expressed their views (duly reflected in relevant PVs) on the issue of a programme of work, taking into account all relevant proposals, including those submitted as the documents of the Conference on Disarmament since 2000. Statements were made by some delegations emphasising that linkages should not be established between elements of a programme of work, while other delegations stressed the need for a balanced and comprehensive approach. The level of support for proposals on a programme of work is duly reflected in the plenary records.

E. Expansion of the Membership of the Conference

17. The important question of the expansion of the membership of the Conference was addressed by delegations in plenary meetings. Their views on the issue are duly reflected in the plenary records.

18. Requests for membership had been received, since 1982, from the following 24 non-Members, in chronological order: Greece, Croatia, Kuwait, Portugal, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Costa Rica, Denmark, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Cyprus, Lithuania, Ghana, Luxembourg, Uruguay, the Philippines, Azerbaijan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Armenia, Thailand, Georgia, Jordan, Estonia, Latvia and Malta.

F. Review of the Agenda of the Conference

19. The importance of the review of the agenda of the Conference was addressed by delegations in plenary meetings. Their views on the issue are duly reflected in the plenary records.

G. Improved and Effective Functioning of the Conference

20. The importance of the improved and effective functioning of the Conference was addressed by delegations in plenary meetings. Their views on the issue are duly reflected in the plenary records.

H. Communications from Non-Governmental Organizations

21. On 15 June 2006, non-governmental organizations made their written material available informally to the members of the Conference, in accordance with paragraph 3 of the 2004 decision of the Conference on Disarmament on the enhancement of the engagement of civil society in its work.

22. In accordance with Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure, a list of communications from non-governmental organizations and persons was circulated to the Conference (document CD/NGC/40).

23. At the 1004th plenary meeting on 16 February 2006, a number of delegations expressed their view that the statement to mark the International Women's Day by the NGO Working Group on Peace of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women related to peace, security and disarmament issues should be delivered directly by one of its authors. At the 1011th plenary meeting on 9 March 2006, the President of the Conference on Disarmament read the abovementioned statement (CD/PV.1011).

III. SUBSTANTIVE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE DURING ITS 2006 SESSION

24. The substantive debates of the Conference during its 2006 session were based on the joint proposal of the six Presidents of the Conference. As envisaged in the proposal, experts from capitals participated in focused structured debates. The list of documents issued by the Conference, as well as the texts of those documents, are included as Appendix I to this report. An index of the verbatim records, by country and by subject, listing the statements made by delegations during 2006, and the verbatim records of the meetings of the Conference, are attached as Appendix II to the report.

25. At the 998th plenary meeting on 24 January 2006, the Conference received a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, on the occasion of the opening of the 2006 session (CD/1763).

26. At the invitations of the Presidents of the Conference, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, addressed the Conference at the 1028th plenary meeting on 21 June 2006 (CD/PV.1028).

27. The Conference had before it a letter dated 1 January 2006 from the Secretary-General of the United Nations (CD/1762 and Add.1 and Corr.1) transmitting the resolutions and decisions on disarmament and international security matters adopted by the General Assembly at its sixtieth session in 2005, including those making specific reference to the Conference on Disarmament. The latter are listed below.

60/46 Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament (operative paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5)

60/53 Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons (operative paragraphs 2, 4, 5)

60/54 Prevention of an arms race in outer space (operative paragraphs 5, 6, 8)

60/57 Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes (operative paragraphs 1, 4, 5)

60/63 Regional disarmament (operative paragraph 1)

60/70 Nuclear disarmament (operative paragraphs 14, 15, 19, 20)

60/88 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons (operative paragraphs 1, 2)

60/90 Report of the Conference on Disarmament (operative paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

60/91 Report of the Disarmament Commission (operative paragraphs 3, 7)

60/226 Transparency in armaments (operative paragraphs 4(b), 6)

IV. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE AND ANY OTHER REPORT AS APPROPRIATE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

28. Considering the developments detailed in this report and with a view to commencing early substantive work during its 2007 session, the Conference requested the current President and the incoming President to conduct consultations during the intersessional period and, if possible, make recommendations, taking into account all relevant proposals, including those submitted as documents of the Conference on Disarmament, views presented and discussions held, and to endeavour to keep the membership of the Conference informed, as appropriate, of their consultations.

29. The Conference decided that the dates for its 2007 session would be:

First part: 22 January – 30 March

Second part: 14 May – 29 June

Third part: 30 July – 14 September

30. The annual report to the sixty-first session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, as adopted by the Conference on 15 September 2006, is transmitted by the President on behalf of the Conference on Disarmament.

Anton Pinter
Slovakia
President of the Conference

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